

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for facilitating processing and disposition of a transaction within an access controlled environment, comprising:
 - an access control facility accessible via a global data processing network and configured to maintain user information, and to permit or deny a user to enter an access controlled environment within a data processing environment and to perform user operations within said access controlled environment, wherein the access control facility includes means for interactive settlement of a legal dispute;
 - a transaction management facility operable within said access controlled environment, coupled to said access control facility, and configured to store and maintain transaction data based on said transaction, said user operations, and a security scheme;
 - an authentication facility operable within said access controlled environment and configured to authenticate said transaction data based on an authentication scheme corresponding to said transaction; and
 - a billing facility configured to permit said user to establish a billing allocation scheme between a first party and a second party to be used to control the billing of services that are provided within said access controlled environment and are associated with a particular transaction, and to consolidate data related to internal operations performed by said access control facility, said transaction management facility, and said authentication facility to generate and process billing data based at least on said billing allocation scheme, wherein said billing data indicates a first monetary amount associated with said services, which is to be billed to the first party, and a second monetary amount associated with said services, which is to be billed to the second party, wherein each of the first monetary amount and the second monetary amount are an amount greater than zero, and the first party is different than the second party.

2. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said global data processing network is the Internet.

3. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said billing facility generates a billing record related to said user operations within said access controlled environment.

4. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein said first monetary amount is greater than said second monetary amount.

5. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said billing allocation scheme is based on a predetermined billing scheme.

6. (Currently Amended) A system for facilitating transaction processing and disposition within an access controlled environment, comprising:

an access control facility accessible via a global data processing network and configured to maintain user information and to permit or deny users to login into an access controlled environment maintained within a data processing environment, said user information including a profile relating to each user of said users, each said profile including a user-specific level of security, wherein the access control facility includes means for interactive settlement of a legal dispute;;

a transaction management facility operable within said access controlled environment, coupled to said access control facility, and configured to store and maintain data related to a transaction involving at least one of said users based on a predetermined security level to facilitate disposition of said transaction within said access controlled environment, and to determine accessibility related to said data for said each user based on said each user's profile;

an authentication facility operable within said access controlled environment and configured to authenticate said data related to said transaction based on a predetermined authentication level set to correspond to said transaction;

a connectivity and communications facility coupled to said access control facility, said transaction management facility, and said authentication facility, said connectivity and

communications facility configured to communicate with said access control facility, said transaction management facility, said authentication facility, and external transaction party systems to facilitate disposition of said transaction based on said data stored and maintained by said transaction management facility; and

 a billing facility configured to permit said users to establish a billing allocation scheme between a first party and second party to be used to control the billing of services that are provided within said access controlled environment and are associated with a particular transaction, and to consolidate data related to internal operations performed by said access control facility, said transaction management facility, and said authentication facility to generate and process billing data based at least on said billing allocation scheme, wherein said billing data indicates a first monetary amount associated with said services, which is to be billed to the first party, and a second monetary amount associated with said services, which is to be billed to the second party, wherein each of the first monetary amount and the second monetary amount are an amount greater than zero, and the first party is different than the second party.

7. (Original) The system according to claim 6, wherein said global data processing network is the Internet.

8. (Original) The system according to claim 6, wherein said billing facility generates a billing record related to each operation performed by said users within said access controlled environment.

9. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 6, wherein said first monetary amount is greater than said second monetary amount.

10. (Original) The system according to claim 6, wherein said billing allocation scheme is based on a predetermined billing scheme.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for facilitating transaction processing and disposition within an access controlled environment, comprising the steps of:

at an access control facility accessible via a global data processing network, maintaining user information, permitting and permitting or denying a user to login into an access controlled environment maintained within a data processing environment, and interactively engaging in communications to settle a legal dispute;

at a transaction management facility coupled to said access control facility, storing and maintaining data related to a transaction based on a predetermined security level to facilitate disposition of said transaction within said access controlled environment;

at an authentication facility, authenticating said data related to said transaction based on a predetermined authentication level;

permitting said user to establish a billing allocation scheme between a first party and a second party to be used to control the billing of services that are provided within said access controlled environment and are associated with a particular transaction;

at a billing facility, consolidating data related to internal operations performed by said access control facility, said transaction management facility, and said authentication facility based on said billing allocation scheme; and

at said billing facility, generating and processing said billing data based at least on said billing allocation scheme, wherein said billing data indicates a first monetary amount associated with said services, which is to be billed to the first party, and a second monetary amount associated with said services, which is to be billed to the second party, wherein each of the first monetary amount and the second monetary amount are an amount greater than zero, and the first party is different than the second party.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein said global data processing network is the Internet.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein said billing data is generated and processed relating to each operation performed by said user within said access controlled environment.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein said first monetary amount is greater than said second monetary amount.

15. (Original) The system according to claim 11, wherein said billing allocation scheme is based on a predetermined billing scheme.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for facilitating transaction processing and disposition within an access controlled environment, comprising the steps of:

at a user system operated by a user, accessing an access control facility via a global data processing network, said access control facility ~~configured to maintain~~ including means for maintaining user information related to said user and means for interactive settlement of a legal dispute;;

permitting or denying said user system operable access to an access controlled environment maintained within a data processing environment based on a profile related to said user including a user-specific level of security;

at a transaction management facility coupled to said access control facility and operating within said access controlled environment, storing and maintaining data related to a transaction involving said user based on a predetermined security level to facilitate disposition of said transaction within said access controlled environment, said transaction management facility determining accessibility related to said data for said user based on said user's profile;

at an authentication facility operating within said access control environment, authenticating said data related to said transaction based on a predetermined authentication level set to correspond to said transaction;

at a communications facility coupled to said access control facility, said transaction management facility, said authentication facility, and operating within said access controlled environment, communicating with external systems to facilitate disposition of said transaction based on said data stored and maintained by said transaction management facility;

permitting said user to establish a billing allocation scheme between a first party and a second party to be used to control the billing of services that are provided within said access controlled environment and are associated with a particular transaction; and

at a billing facility operating within said access controlled environment, consolidating data related to internal operations performed by said access control facility, said transaction management facility, and said authentication facility, generating and processing billing data based at least on said billing allocation scheme, wherein said billing data indicates a first monetary amount associated with said services, which is to be billed to the first party, and a second monetary amount associated with said services, which is to be billed to the second party, wherein each of the first monetary amount and the second monetary amount are an amount greater than zero, and the first party is different than the second party.

17. (Original) The method according to claim 16, wherein said global data processing network is the Internet.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 16, further comprises the step of: at said billing facility, generating a billing record related to each operation performed by said user within.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein said first monetary amount is greater than said second monetary amount.

20. (Original) The method according to claim 16, wherein said billing allocation scheme is based on a predetermined billing scheme.

21. (Currently Amended) A system for facilitating processing and disposition of a transaction within an access controlled environment, comprising:

an access control facility accessible via a global data processing network and configured to permit or deny a user to enter an access controlled environment within a data processing environment and to utilize services offered within said access controlled environment, wherein the access control facility includes means for interactive settlement of a legal dispute; and

a billing facility configured to permit said user to establish a billing allocation scheme between a first party and a second party to be used to control billing related to said services that

are provided within said access controlled environment and are associated with a particular transaction, and to generate and process billing data based at least on said billing allocation scheme, wherein said billing data indicates a first monetary amount associated with said services, which is to be billed to the first party, and a second monetary amount associated with said services, which is to be billed to the second party, wherein each of the first monetary amount and the second monetary amount are an amount greater than zero, and the first party is different than the second party.

22. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 21, wherein said billing facility generates a billing record related to each operation related to said services performed by said user within said access controlled environment.

23. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 21, wherein said first monetary amount is greater than said second monetary amount.

24. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 21, wherein said billing allocation scheme is based on a predetermined billing scheme.